

ABSTRACT

An evaporative emissions control system for small internal combustion engines includes a control valve associated with a fuel line and with a vent line which each connect the fuel tank to the carburetor. When the engine is not running, the control valve automatically closes the vent line and the fuel line, thereby trapping fuel vapors within the fuel tank and vent line and preventing the supply of liquid fuel to the carburetor. Upon engine start up, actuation of a bail assembly or vacuum produced within the carburetor causes the control valve to open the vent line and the fuel line, venting fuel vapors from the fuel tank through the fuel line to the carburetor for consumption by the engine, and opening the supply of liquid fuel from the fuel tank to the carburetor. Also, the present evaporative emissions control system may be used in conjunction with one or more fuel tank sealing and venting assemblies, which prevent the escape of fuel vapors from the fuel tank into the atmosphere, yet which allow fluid exchange in a closed manner between the fuel tank and carburetor.